Tab B. "Subset"

Claims using this term: claims 1 and 9 of the '516 patent

Lawson remaining terms and phrases 6

The parties agreed at the *Markman* hearing and stipulate that the term "subset" means "less than all of a set."

Lawson's Proposed Definition	Lawson's Proposed Definition
less than all	"The data passed by interface 60 preferably comprise all or a subset of the following twelve fields: . . . ." ('172 patent, Detailed Description of the Invention, 6:4-5) "1. An electronic sourcing system comprising: . . . a catalog selection protocol, said catalog selection protocol relying on said first set of pre-determined criteria to select less than said entire collection of catalogs, and including matching a vendor identification code with a subset of said collection of catalogs, wherein said subset of catalogs includes both a vendor catalog from a predetermined vendor and a second catalog from a predetermined third party that is one of a manufacturer and a competing vendor, said predetermined third party selling items corresponding to items in said vendor catalog; and . . . ." ('516 patent, claim 1)

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| 5 | 6 |

tor site is also provided, as shown in FIG. 1A. Host computer **10** controls all inventory, pricing and requisitioning operations of the Distributor's regularly stocked items using host pricing and inventory databases **11**. Host pricing and inventory databases **11** may include such information as: descriptions of the items and the quantities thereof available at a particular Distributor warehouse and at other Distributor warehouses; item records for each Product regularly sold by the Distributor; discount records by Customer; and cross-references from the Distributor's catalog number to its corresponding vendor's part (catalog) number and to similar corresponding catalog numbers of other vendors (suppliers or distributors) for the same Product.

Host computer **10** and local computer **20** are preferably linked point-to-point or in a network employing the formats and protocols of IBM's System Network Architecture ("SNA"). Host computer **10** can be substantially any mainframe or minicomputer capable of running the desired programs and conducting the required communications. Preferably, host computer **10** is a mainframe computer, such as an IBM Model 3090, running the MVS operating system, the MVS-CICS application and a Virtual Telecommunication Access Method communications network.

As shown in FIGS. 1C and 2, interface **60** is also a part of electronic sourcing interface system **5**. Interface **60** communicates shared data between requisition/purchasing system **40** and search program **50**. Interface **60** is preferably based upon the dynamic data exchange ("DDE") protocol provided by OS/2 operating system **32**. As shown in FIG. 2, interface **60** preferably includes three linking programs to interface requisition/purchasing system **40** and search program **50**: ESRC program **70**, ESCP program **80** and DDE LINK **90**.

A typical data exchange may begin with requisition/purchasing system **40** (which, in the illustrated embodiment, is the Fisher RIMS system) requesting information from catalog database **36** via search program **50**. Once a search by search program **50** has been completed, the selected information will be communicated to requisition/purchasing system **40** via interface **60**.

Alternatively, if the search of catalog database **36** is initiated from search program **50**, the information selected from the search is returned to requisition/procurement system **40** via interface **60**.

The start up of electronic sourcing system **5** (FIG. 1A) may be user-initiated or automatically started when the operating system, preferably OS/2 system **32**, is brought up on local computer **20**. An application-name string **61** must be identified to label interface **60**. As shown in FIG. 1C, electronic sourcing system **5** by convention will use "TV2V123," "TV2V124," "TV2V125," etc. as application names **61** supporting the user's requesting service.

Preferably, application names **61** correspond to virtual terminal sessions that exist in the CICS system **34** of requisition/purchasing system **40**. There will be a one-to-one correspondence between applications started (such as Shell **52**) and CICS virtual terminals in use at a location of requisition/procurement system **40** (such as REQI program **44A**). Local computer **20** will query OS/2 operating system **32** to determine the next application-name string **61** to create at start-up. The application-name strings **61** will be created in sequence with **V123** being created first, **V124** created second, etc. Each application will create only one application name-string **61** to support its user in the CICS environment **34**.

If the Fisher RIMS system has been selected as requisition/purchasing system **40**, and the TV/2 search pro-

gram has been selected as search program **50**, CICS OS/2 applications **34** must share a workstation with a TV/2 search program **50**.

The data passed by interface **60** preferably comprise all or a subset of the following twelve fields: vendor name, vendor number, vendor part (catalog) number, product description, bid price, list price, keyword, page number, quantity, unit, catalog text, and catalog images. Because of the amount of data for catalog images present in database **36** and viewed on monitor **22**, these data are usually not passed via interface **60**. Any of the above-listed fields may be filled by requisition/purchasing system **40** prior to requesting a search of catalog database **36** by search program **50**. However, requisition/purchasing system **40** is not required to pass any data to search program **50**. If a field is not passed, that field will be filled with spaces. The fields that are filled with data will assist search program **50** in executing its first search against a specific catalog contained in catalog database **36**.

A search priority exists when more than one field is provided by requisition/purchasing system **40**. The priority is as follows: (1) part (catalog) number; (2) keyword; and (3) page number. The search will start with priority (1) and proceed through priority (3) in sequence until a search produces products matching the search criteria. At that time, the search will return the matching product information to requisition/purchasing system **40** and stop at the highest priority resulting in a match.

The operation of electronic sourcing system **5** of the present invention will now be more particularly described in the context of FIGS. 1A, 1C, 2 and 3. In FIGS. 2 and 3, the rectangles represent data screens as well as programs associated with those data screens. The rounded rectangles represent programs not associated with data screens such that, while these programs are running, the prior data screen may remain visible without, necessarily, being operational for the input of data. The programs associated with the data screens enable the user of local computer **20** to display and modify the contents of various tables associated with particular data screens. The following description illustrates the use of the Fisher RIMS system as requisition/purchasing system **40**, and the TV/2 search program as search program **50**. However, it will be understood that the present invention is not limited to such system or program.

Preferably, a user will start the electronic sourcing system **5** from Fisher RIMS system **40**. Requisitioning on Fisher RIMS system **40** in context of the electronic sourcing system **5** of the present invention is illustrated in pertinent part in FIG. 2 (and is fully described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,712,989). As data (e.g., Account Number, Requisition Number and Stock Numbers) associated with a single requisition are entered through the various data screens on local computer **20**, that computer creates a set of Requisition Tables (including a requisition Item Table **46**, shown in FIG. 1C) for that particular requisition. The Requisition Tables are stored in Requisition databases **42A** (shown in FIG. 1A), and can be accessed by local computer **20** using the Requisition Number to find the desired table.

The first step in creating a requisition in Fisher RIMS system **40** involves entry by the user of information in the Order Header program **44D** (shown in FIG. 1A), which has an associated Order Header data screen **100** (FIG. 3). A sample of an actual Order Header data screen **100** is set forth in Appendix I. The user enters an Account Number, which generally causes the correct name and address associated with that Account Number to be entered into the appropriate fields of Order Header data screen **100**. The user must also

Tab B: "Subset"

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-continued

```
          +F3: EXIT   F6: SOURCE   F7: BKWD:   F8: FWD   F9: NEW ITM   F10: NONCAT
                      F11: CATALOG   F12: CNCL
1B V123
```

APPENDIX IX

```
RICPOMP1                FISHER SCIENTIFIC RIMS          DATE:   08-03-94
                     REQUISITION MANAGEMENT SCREEN      TIME:   07:44:13

      COMP ID: 001        REQ-NBR: PO NBR 001
      ACCT NBR: 363690 006   REL-NBR:
   ORDER NBR:                        PICKLIST REVIEWED:
SERVICE:          0.00 ORDER:       0.00    FREIGHT:
CARRIER:
O LINE   PART        QTY   UOM PRD   UNIT PRICE   SERVICE      EXT PRICE  LOC  STAT
001      A181         1    EA   03   35.30        0.00          35.30     DEL  S
         ACETONE CERTIFIED ACS     1L   QTY AVAIL:   1    QTY REC:    0
002      02540K       1    PK   01   32.70        0.00          32.70     JIT  S
         BEAKER GRIFFIN 250 ML     12/9  QTY AVAIL:  49    QTY REC:    0
003      13246818F    1    EA   03   3495.00      0.00          3495.00   EDC  S
         PROGRAMMABLE OVEN              QTY AVAIL:   0    QTY REC:    0
004      A181-06      1    EA   06   100.00       0.00          100.00    JIT  S
         ACETONE                       QTY AVAIL:   0    QTY REC:    0
RESPONSE:     KEY(S):
 +F3: EXIT   F6: ACCEPT   F7: BKWD   F8: FWD   F9: PRINT ACK   F11: M/B ERRORS   F12 DELETE
1B V123
```

APPENDIX X

```
                *** REQUISITION MANAGEMENT SCREEN ***

   ACCT NBR: 218848 002     REQ NBR: TEST NEW ONE
      COMP: 001             REL NBR:
                        ELECTRONIC SOURCING MESSAGES
         LINE NUMBER             001           PART NUMBER 53610
PART ADDED SUCCESSFULLY
         LINE NUMBER             001           PART NUMBER 53610
REPLACEMENT WAS MADE FOR PRIOR PART: S100-06
         LINE NUMBER             001           PART NUMBER 53610
VENDOR CHANGED FROM: VN00000001
         LINE NUMBER             002           PART NUMBER 53620
PART ADDED SUCCESSFULLY
         LINE NUMBER             003           PART NUMBER 53650
PART ADDED SUCCESSFULLY
               F6: RETURN   F7: BACKWARD   F8: FORWARD
```

We claim:

1. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format;

a first set of pre-determined criteria associated with said collection of catalogs;

a second set of pre-determined criteria associated with items from each of said catalogs;

a catalog selection protocol, said catalog selection protocol relying on said first set of pre-determined criteria to select less than said entire collection of catalogs, and including matching a vendor identification code with a subset of said collection of catalogs, wherein said subset of catalogs includes both a vendor catalog from a predetermined vendor and a second catalog from a predetermined third party that is one of a manufacturer and a competing vendor, said predetermined third party selling items corresponding to items in said vendor catalog; and

a search program, said search program relying on said second set of criteria to select specific items from said catalogs determined from said catalog selection protocol.

2. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, wherein catalogs comprising said collection of catalogs are stored in separate databases.

3. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said catalogs comprising said collection of catalogs are stored in a single database.

4. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said predetermined third party makes items in said vendor catalog.

5. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, further including a cross reference table linking a vendor item catalog number from said vendor catalog with an item catalog number from said predetermined third party.

6. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said second set of predetermined criteria includes at least one of a catalog number and item textual information.

7. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said catalog selection protocol includes providing an electronic listing of available catalogs from said collection of catalogs.

8. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 7, wherein said electronic listing of available catalogs is less than said collection of catalogs.

9. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format;

a first identification code associated with a first item in a first catalog;

a second identification code associated with a second item in a second catalog, said first item and said second item